

In the claims:

For the Examiner's convenience, all pending claims are presented below with changes shown in accordance with the mandatory amendment format.

1. (Previously Presented) A single exclusive interface to transfer data directly between a memory control hub (MCH) and a input/output control hub (ICH) within a computer system, comprising:
 - a data signal path to transmit data in packets via split transactions; and
 - a set of command signals, wherein said interface provides a point-to-point connection between said MCH and said ICH, exclusive of an external bus connected directly to the interface, and peripheral components only connected to MCH via a single interface between the MCH and ICH.
2. (Original) The interface of claim 1, wherein said MCH and said ICH within said computer system are components within a chipset.
3. (Cancelled).
4. (Currently Amended) The interface of claim 1, wherein a said request packet includes a transaction descriptor.
5. (Currently Amended) The interface of claim 1, wherein a completion packet is transmitted on said interface in response to a said request packet of a said first transaction.

6. (Currently Amended) The interface of claim 1, wherein a said request packet includes transaction descriptor and a said completion packet includes a corresponding transaction descriptor.
7. (Original) The interface of claim 5, wherein a request packet for a second transaction can be transmitted across said interface prior to transmitting said completion packet in response to the request packet of said first transaction.
8. (Previously Presented) The interface of claim 1, wherein said data signal path is scalable.
9. (Original) The interface of claim 8, wherein packets are transmitted across said data signal path via a source synchronous clock mode.
10. (Original) The interface of claim 9, wherein said interface includes a set of bi-directional data signals, a first and second source synchronous strobe signal, a unidirectional arbitration signal, and a bi-directional stop signal.
11. (Original) The interface of claim 10, wherein said interface further includes a system reset signal, a common clock signal, and a voltage reference signal.
12. (Currently Amended) The interface of claim 11, wherein said transaction descriptors identify separate hubs within a hierarchy of multiple interfaces between at least three hubs.

13. (Currently Amended) The interface of claim 5, wherein said request packet includes a field indicating if a completion packet is required in response to the respective request packet.

14. (Previously Presented) The interface of claim 1, wherein arbitration between said hubs is symmetric and distributed.

15. (Previously Presented) The interface of claim 1, wherein a hub is allotted ownership of said interface up to a predetermined amount of time.

16. (Previously Presented) A single exclusive interface to transfer data directly between a memory control hub (MCH) and an input/ output control hub (ICH) within a computer system, comprising:

a first means for transmitting data between said MCH and said ICH in packets via split transactions; and

a second means for transmitting command signals, wherein said interface provides a point-to-point connection between said MCH and said ICH, exclusive of an external bus connected directly to the interface, and peripheral components only connected to MCH via a single interface between the MCH and ICH.

17. (Original) The interface of claim 16, wherein said ICH and said MCH within said computer system are components within a chipset.

18. (Original) The interface of claim 17, wherein said interface includes a means for initiating a first transaction on said interface with a request packet.

19. (Original) The interface of claim 18, wherein said request packet includes a transaction descriptor.

20. (Original) The interface of claim 19, wherein said interface includes means for providing a completion packet in response to said request packet of said first transaction.

21. (Cancelled).

22. (Currently Amended) The interface of claim 16, wherein said interface includes a means for transmitting request packet for a second transaction across said interface prior to transmitting a said completion packet in response to a the request packet of a said first transaction.

23. (Currently Amended) The interface of claim 22, wherein said first means for transmitting data in packets via split transactions ~~includes~~ further includes means for scaling a data signal path.

24. (Original) The interface of claim 23, wherein said interface includes means for transmitting packets across said interface via a source synchronous clock mode.

25. (Currently Amended) The interface of claim 16, wherein the transaction descriptors include a means for identifying separate hubs within a hierarchy of multiple interfaces between three or more hubs.
26. (Currently Amended) The interface of claim 20, wherein said request packet includes a means for indicating if a completion packet is required in response to the respective request packet.
27. (Original) The interface of claim 26, wherein interface includes a means for arbitrating between said hubs for ownership of said interface.
28. (Currently Amended) The interface of claim 16, wherein said interface further includes a means for is granting allotting ownership of said interface to one of said hubs up to a predetermined amount of time.
29. (Previously Presented) A single exclusive interface to transfer data between a memory control hub and an input/output (I/O) hub of a chipset within a computer system, comprising:
- a bi-directional data signal path and a pair of source synchronous strobe signals, said data signal path transmits data in packets via split transactions, said packets including a request packet and completion packet, said request packet including a transaction descriptor; and
- a set of command signals including unidirectional arbitration signal, a bi- directional stop signal, a system reset signal, a common clock signal, and a voltage reference signal,

wherein said interface provides a point-to-point connection between said memory control hub and said I/O hub, exclusive of an external bus connected directly to the point-to-point connection, and peripheral components only connected to MCH via a single interface between the MCH and ICH.

30. (Currently Amended) A computer system comprising
a processor;
a memory control hub (MCH) coupled to said processor;
an input/ output control hub (ICH) coupled to said MCH via a single exclusive interface to transfer data directly between the MCH and the ICH;
said interface having a data signal path to transmit data in packets via split transactions, and said interface including a set of command signals, wherein said interface provides a point-to-point connection between said MCH and said ICH, exclusive of an external bus connected directly to the point-to-point connection, and peripheral components connected to MCH via a ~~s~~ single interface between the MCH and ICH; and
a Peripheral Component Interconnect (PCI) agent coupled to said ICH.

31. (Canceled)

32. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 30, wherein said MCH and ICH ~~first and second hubs~~ within said computer system are components within a chipset.

33. (Original) The computer system of claim 32, wherein a first transaction is initiated on said interface with a request packet, subsequent to arbitration for ownership of said interface.

34. (Original) The computer system of claim 33, wherein said request packet includes a transaction descriptor.

35. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 33, wherein a completion packet is transmitted on said interface in response to a said request packet of said first transaction.

36. (Cancelled).

37. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 30, wherein a request packet for a second transaction can be transmitted across said interface prior to transmitting a said completion packet in response to a said request packet of said first transaction.

38. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 30, wherein said data signal path is scalable.

39. (Original) The computer system of claim 38, wherein packets are transmitted across said data signal path via a source synchronous clock mode.

40. (Original) The computer system of claim 39, wherein said interface includes a set of bi-directional data signals, a first and second source synchronous strobe signal, a unidirectional arbitration signal, and a bi-directional stop signal.

41. (Original) The computer system of claim 40, wherein said interface further includes a system reset signal, a common clock signal, and a voltage reference signal.
42. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 41, wherein said transaction descriptors identify separate hubs within a hierarchy of multiple interfaces between at least three hubs.
43. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 42, wherein said request packet includes a field indicating if a completion packet is required in response to the ~~respective~~ request packet.
44. (Original) The computer system of claim 43, wherein arbitration between said hubs is symmetric and distributed.
45. (Original) The computer system of claim 44, wherein a hub is allotted ownership of said interface up to a predetermined amount of time.
46. (Original) The computer system of claim 30, wherein the computer system includes multiple processors.
47. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 30, wherein the computer system further includes a third hub coupled to said ICH via an interface comprising:

a bi-directional data signal path and a pair of source synchronous strobe signals, said data signal path transmits data in packets via split transactions, said packets including a request packet and completion packet, said request packet including a transaction descriptor; and

a set of command signals including unidirectional arbitration signal, a bi- directional stop signal, a system reset signal, a common clock signal, and a voltage reference signal.

48. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 30, wherein the processor and the MCH of said computer system, are integrated on a single semiconductor unit.

49. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 30, wherein the MCH and a graphics unit of said computer system, are integrated on a single semiconductor unit.

50. (Previously Presented) A memory control hub (MCH) comprising:
a single exclusive interface to transfer data directly to an input/ output control hub (ICH) within a computer system, the interface having a data signal path to transmit data in packets via split transactions, and a set of command signals, wherein the interface provides a point-to-point connection between said the MCH and said ICH, exclusive of an external bus connected directly to the interface, and peripheral components only connected to MCH via the single interface between the MCH and ICH.

51. (Original) The memory control hub of claim 50, wherein said MCH and ICH are components within a chipset.

52. (Original) The memory control hub of claim 50, wherein a first transaction is initiated on said interface with a request packet, subsequent to arbitration for ownership of said interface.

53. (Original) The memory control hub of claim 52, wherein said request packet includes a transaction descriptor.

54. (Original) The memory control hub of claim 53, wherein a completion packet is transmitted on said interface in response to said request packet of said first transaction.

55. (Original) The memory control hub of claim 52, wherein said request packet includes transaction descriptor and said completion packet includes a corresponding transaction descriptor.

56. (Original) The memory control hub of claim 55, wherein a request packet for a second transaction can be transmitted across said interface prior to transmitting said completion packet in response to the request packet of said first transaction.

57. (Original) The memory control hub of claim 56, wherein said data signal path is scalable.

58. (Previously Presented) The memory control hub of claim 57, wherein packets are transmitted across said data signal path via a source synchronous clock mode.

59. (Previously Presented) The memory control hub of claim 58, wherein said interface includes a set of bi- directional data signals, a first and second source synchronous strobe signal, a unidirectional arbitration signal, and a bi-directional stop signal.

60. (Previously Presented) The memory control hub of claim 59, wherein said interface further includes a system reset signal, a common clock signal, and a voltage reference signal.

61. (Previously Presented) The memory control hub of claim 60, wherein said transaction descriptors identify separate hubs within a hierarchy of multiple interfaces between at least three hubs.

62. (Currently Amended) The memory control hub of claim 61, wherein said request packet includes a field indicating if a completion packet is required in response to the respective request packet.

63. (Previously Presented) The memory control hub of claim 62, wherein arbitration between said hubs is symmetric and distributed.

64. (Previously Presented) The memory control hub of claim 63, wherein a hub is allotted ownership of said interface up to a predetermined amount of time.

65. (Previously Presented) The memory control hub of claim 50, wherein the memory control hub and a processor are integrated on a single semiconductor unit.

66. (Previously Presented) The memory control hub of claim 50, wherein the memory control hub and a graphics unit are integrated on a single semiconductor unit.